

# NVCC's Center for Teaching (CFT)

## Fall Newsletter

2020



### You Affect Eternity

As an educator, you spent the spring accomplishing the herculean task of shifting classes online during a global pandemic (and many of you were also caring for and/or homeschooling loved ones). You spent the summer preparing for the fall... applying what you learned in the spring and/or attending additional professional development trainings on your computer while the sun was shining outside. You have learned countless new teaching and computer skills. You revamped your classes in ways you never imagined. And now, while simultaneously teaching, you are helping students navigate this “new reality.” And they have more questions than ever before! We know it hasn't been easy (and at times, beyond exhausting). But you are here. Teaching day after day. You “keep on keepin' on.” Your love of teaching makes it all possible. You are changing lives. As Henry Adams said, “A teacher affects eternity.” *You affect eternity.*

The Center for Teaching (CFT) appreciates those who teach at NVCC! And we are here to support you! Our themes for this academic year are **Educational Equity, Online Pedagogy, and Self-Care**. Our events and resources will be anchored by those three overarching themes. Although we won't be hosting in-person events in our cozy CFT room, **we will be offering some live virtual events and providing digital resources and teaching tips through our NVCCFT-Teaching-and-Learning Blackboard site**. Please contact us if you have any questions, ideas, and resources!

NVCC CFT Committee:

**Nikki McGary** (CFT Chair): [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)

**Ruth Urbina-Lilback** (Teaching & Learning Consultant): [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)

**Sandra Eddy** (Professor, CIS, Business)

**Althea Hayes** (Assistant Professor, English)

**Lou Lombard** (Professor, English; Chair of Humanities; Coordinator of General Studies and FYE)

**Mitch Holmes** (Professor, Business)

**Kim O'Donnell** (Professor, Psychology)

**Patti Pallis** (Professor, English; Chair)

**Steve Parlato** (Professor, English)

**Julia Petitfrere** (Professor, English)

**Carlos Plaza** (Assistant Professor, Math)

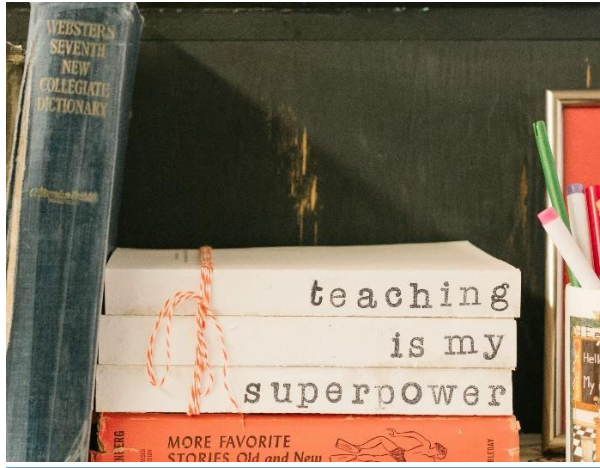
**Chris Rempfer** (Assoc. Professor, English)

**Kathy Taylor** (Professor, Legal Studies)

**Angela Tiru** (Professor, Psychology)

## CFT Events: Fall 2020

### Small Groups: “Colleagues Helping Colleagues”



Are you interested in participating in a small group to discuss what is working in your classes (and what isn't), bounce ideas off each other, troubleshoot together... laugh and/or cry together? These groups will meet bi-weekly, and are confidential, supportive, and don't require any preparation! Each group will consist of five or fewer people, including at least one CFT Committee Member.

The date, time, and virtual platform will be determined by the members of each group. *If you are interested, email Nikki McGary at [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)*

### “Show & Tells”:

Do you have a teaching/learning technique to share with colleagues? Let's be a resource to one another! If you have done something that has worked well (or not – but you learned something), please consider sharing it in a short video. Each video will be posted on our **NVCFT\_Teaching\_and\_Learning Blackboard site**, and available to NVCC educators. Contributors can make the video in Collaborate, and each video should not exceed five minutes. Professor Sandra Eddy (CIS; Business) and Nikki McGary (Sociology; Anthropology) are paving the way with “Show & Tell” samples: [How to Find Polling Feedback](#); [Getting Started Quickly with Blackboard Corporate Video Resources](#); and [Midsemester Evaluations](#). And then share your own! To learn how, click [here](#) (or we also shared a training document on our CFT Blackboard site). Email your Show & Tells to: [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu). Join the fun!

## **Open Education Resources (OER) Panel**

***Wednesday 9/30 @ 2:00-3:00 PM***

Affordable (or better yet, free!) and accessible resources are essential to educational equity. Join faculty as they discuss their experiences using OER in their classrooms and departments. This event will also feature NVCC's OER Library Liaison, Jenna Stebbins, who will explain what OER is (and where you can find OER material).

Faculty panelists include:



Open Educational Resources

David Clough, Esq. (Professor, Legal Studies;  
Coordinator)

Bernadine Franco (Adjunct Professor, Art History)

Amy Lenoce (Professor, Communication; Department  
Chair)

Nikki McGary, Ph.D. (Associate Professor, Sociology)

Latisha M. Nielsen (Assistant Professor, Sociology)

Rachel Sacket, M.S. (Professor, Biology)

Kathy Taylor, JD (Professor, Legal Studies)

Alan Teitleman, MPA, MA (Assistant Professor,  
Communication)

*RSVP for virtual meeting information: [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)*

## **Rubrics Cubed: Teaching, Learning, and Responding with Intention and Transparency**

***Wednesday 10/7 @ 2:30 PM***

Join Professor Ron Picard, Ph.D. (English) in this workshop where participants will develop rubrics for measuring student performance on course or program level learning outcomes. Topics discussed will include how to write effective learning outcomes, how to develop an effective grading scale, how to ensure that students are conscious of what they are learning, and how to develop course assignments that allow for mid semester course correction. Participants should bring a copy of a course syllabus or a list of program learning outcomes from the college catalog.

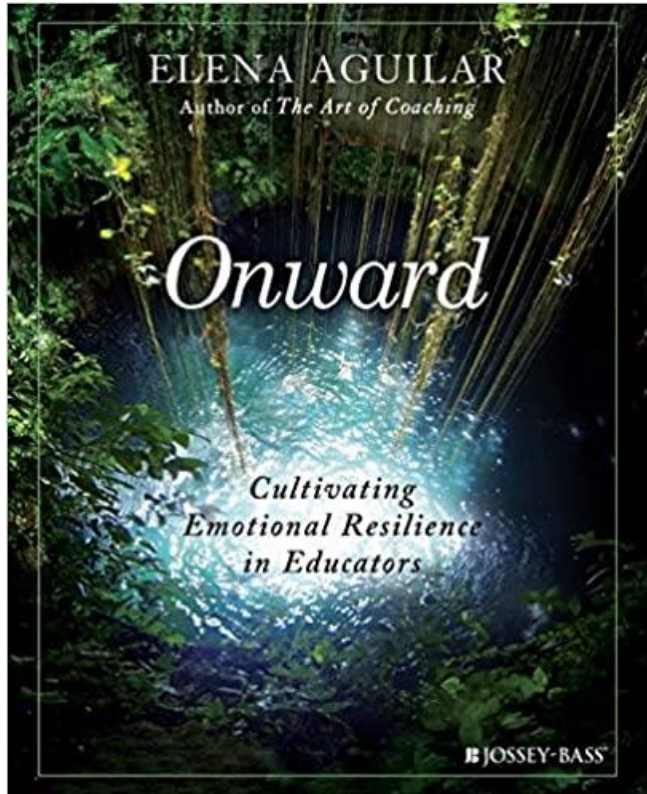


*RSVP for virtual meeting information: [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)*

## **CFT Fall Book Club:**

***Friday Mornings @ 10:00 AM in October***

RSVP ASAP to have a copy of the book mailed directly to your home address: Ruth Urbina-Lilback at [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)



*Onward* tackles the problem of educator stress, and provides a practical framework for taking the burnout out of teaching. Stress is part of the job, but when 70 percent of teachers quit within their first five years because the stress is making them physically and mentally ill, things have gone too far. Unsurprisingly, these effects are highest in difficult-to-fill positions such as math, science, and foreign languages, and in urban areas and secondary classrooms—places where we need our teachers to be especially motivated and engaged.

This book offers a path to resiliency to help teachers weather the storms and bounce back—and work toward banishing the rain for good. This actionable framework gives you concrete steps toward rediscovering yourself, your energy, and your passion for teaching. You’ll learn how a simple shift in mindset can affect your outlook, and how taking care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally is one of the most important things you can do. The companion workbook helps you put the framework into action, streamlining your way toward renewal and strength.

- Cultivate resilience with a four-part frame
- work based on 12 key habits
- Uncover your true self, understand emotions, and use your energy where it counts
- Adopt a mindful, story-telling approach to communication and community building

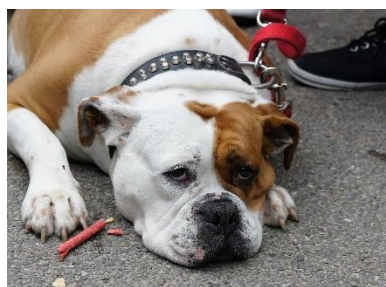


- Keep learning, playing, and creating to create an environment of collective celebration

To learn more about the book and visit its companion website, click [here](#).

## **Discussion “Bored” No More!**

***Monday 10/26 @ 2:30-3:30 PM***



Join Chris Rempfer (English) and Nikki McGary (Sociology) as they discuss how to engage students in productive discussion forums in online classes. This is a “hands-on” (virtual) workshop. Please be sure to bring a draft of a discussion prompt that you might use (or are currently using). We will also discuss assessment, as well as techniques including live debate or “fishbowls”

that can be used in LRON classes.

*RSVP for virtual meeting information: [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)*

***Call for Proposals:*** Please contact us if you are interested in hosting an event. Provide a title and description of what you plan to do, with at least one measurable outcome.

## **Reach Out to Ruth (our TLC!):**



As the NVCC’s Teaching and Learning Consultant, **Ruth Urbina-Lilback** works to create opportunities for professional development in areas of teaching and learning for full and adjunct faculty and instructional staff. She serves in our local NVCC CFT committee, as well as the State-wide Steering Committee. At the state level, she works with TLC’s from other colleges to develop and offer cooperative programs catered to meet the needs of all community college faculty in the system. Ruth is a resource at NVCC, and she is available on a confidential basis to faculty who seek assistance with teaching and learning.

[rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)

## Upcoming State-wide CFT Programs and Events

More information at the Connecticut CFT site: <https://ctcft.org/>



### **Spirit of Teaching** (October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Please join us virtually for this year's Spirit of Teaching event on **RESILIENCE**. As always, we will be exploring our theme in the context of our personal and professional lives: sharing our stories, offering times for reflection, and suggesting ways in which to foster resilience in ourselves and our students. Although Spirit is not a formal academic conference, the issues and questions raised will be grounded in contemporary research on our theme of resilience. We will also be introducing our year-long resilience project.

Please register for our program through the link below and complete the form no later than Tuesday, October 20, 2020. You will receive a WebEx link a few days prior to the event.

Register at: <https://forms.gle/R2BKCvdoDZLzUsP29>

Team Spirit looks forward to welcoming you to this year's program. If you have any questions, please contact Program Chair, James Gentile at [jgentile@manchestercc.edu](mailto:jgentile@manchestercc.edu) or Registration Coordinator, Carla Adams at [cadams@manchestercc.edu](mailto:cadams@manchestercc.edu).

**Pathways Workshops** (November, date TBD): The Pathways Workshops are didactic in nature – they teach participants specific concepts and techniques, and focus on practical implementation in the college classroom. The overarching theme this year is **Diversity in Teaching** with one workshop planned for November and two additional programs for the Spring semester. The November program will focus on exploring our own bias and on actionable items we can immediately implement to spot and stop bias.

**Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW)**: ISW's are highly interactive 3-day workshops, in which each participant makes three 10-minute teaching lessons. These are the basis for discussions about effective pedagogy. Experienced or brand-new faculty can benefit greatly from these sessions. It is an opportunity to experiment with new approaches to instruction. Please contact Ruth if you are interested. Dates vary throughout the year depending on scheduling needs and participant interest.



## Go2Knowledge Live and On-Demand Webinars FREE

<https://www.go2knowledge.org/nwcc>



- FREE Online Webinars you can choose from, available NOW
- Extensive Selection of Topics on Teaching, Learning and Supporting Student Success
- No Limit! – Complete as many training sessions as you like
- Work at Your Own Pace – You can start a training module and come back to it as your time allows it.
- Keep Track of your Professional Development – free certificates of completion are issued for every completed session.

Registration is simple: Enter your name, your college email address and the password of your choice. Do not wait - join our online community of learners from our 12 community colleges. Sample Webinar titles include: Best Practices for Student Success in Developmental Education, Best Practices in College Teaching: Creating an Active Learning Environment, Creating Tests that Assess Higher Order Thinking Skills, Diversity, Supporting First-Generation Students: Providing Access, Maximizing Student Achievement & Increasing Persistence.

---

### *A Quote to Consider:*

“Any classroom that employs a holistic model of learning will also be a place where teachers grow, and are empowered by the process. That empowerment cannot happen if we refuse to be vulnerable while encouraging students to take risks.”

— bell hooks, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*